The Energy of a New School Year

I would like to officially welcome you and your child back for the 2016-17 school year at Thurgood Marshall. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual Ice Cream Social on Tuesday. After a quiet summer of planning, it is fun to see the school come alive with the energy that children bring.

First Day Packets: Thank you, PTA Volunteers, for helping prepare the packets of paperwork that went home yesterday. Parents, please return your child’s lunch form to school immediately so there is no interruption to lunch service. It will be extremely helpful to us if you can send the rest of the forms back to the school office by Monday (Sept. 12).

Administration: Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie, our Assistant Principal, and I are looking forward to working with our teachers, your children and you! Each year we divide our responsibilities so that you know who to go to if you have questions or need help. Sabrina will be supervising Grades 2 and 5. You can also go to her with questions about specialists and non-classroom teachers. I will be in charge of kindergarten and Grades 1, 3 and 4. We will each be handling the IEP Meetings for our respective grades, and will share discipline responsibilities. If you have a question about something happening in a classroom, please be sure to see your child’s teacher first. The teacher wants to support your child and work with you to create a wonderful school experience for your child. If you still have questions after you talk to the teacher, please be in touch with Sabrina or me.

New Staff: Please join me in welcoming the following to our school:

- 2nd Grade: Mariluz Garzon
- 2nd/3rd Grade: Debby Halperin
- 4th Grade: Eunice Davis, Lisa Sorenson, Mike Zetterberg
- 5th Grade: Brie Damitio
- .5 PE Teacher: Chris Brannon
- Instructional Assistant: Deron Bryant (Room 104)
- Literacy Tutors: Diana Lesemann (formerly of our YMCA child care)
- Speech Language Pathologists: Kacky Brown, Claire Ambroviak

Pup Press will present more info about them in upcoming issues.

Curriculum Night: This important event will be next Thursday, Sept. 15. The schedule will be:

- 6:30-7:15 p.m. – classroom presentations for parents of Grades K-2 and PEACE Academy students.
- 7:15-7:45 p.m. – parents will gather in gym for Principal presentation and introduction of our specialists (art, music, PE, etc.)
- 7:45-8:30 p.m. – classroom presentations for parents of Grades 3-5 students

5th Grade Camp: Students will go to Camp Orkila Sept. 21. Paperwork will come home this week. Please return this as soon as possible. Best wishes for a great start!

Katie
Hello and a welcome to everyone! I am looking forward to another wonderful year together as we learn new skills through our classroom counseling lessons. I will be updating you regularly through the Pup Press about the counseling activities and happenings here at school. Part of my role as Counselor is visiting all the classrooms regularly to guide students in social/emotional learning. Together we will learn about feelings, problem solving, communication, empathy, skills for learning, and much more!

Sometimes the first few weeks feel like an uncomfortable social struggle. If your child is still having a hard time adjusting after a month at Thurgood Marshall, please contact me with your concerns. I run small group counseling throughout the school year for supports in making friends, controlling emotions, and dealing with tough issues like divorce and grief/loss. I will reach out frequently through Pup Press to update you about our counseling program and what your child is learning. If you need resources or have questions, feel free to get in touch: mkaloper@seattleschools.org or 206-252-2808. I am in the building Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Thanks for being such caring and supportive parents. I look forward to getting to know you and your kids, and collaborating with you this this year!

**Have You Enjoyed the Food at Grade-Level Potlucks?**

You may already know that the Grade-Level Potlucks that start next week are a great way to connect with other TM families. But have you experienced the food? Many parents (perhaps you?) create dishes that reflect their cultural heritage or a special cooking interest. The PTA will provide water, plates and cutlery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to bring…</th>
<th>All potlucks are 5:30-7 p.m. in the Cafeteria:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If your student’s last name begins with</td>
<td>Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Grade 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-M: Main Dish</td>
<td>Wednesday, Sept. 14 - Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-R: Side or Salad</td>
<td>Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Grade 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-Z: Dessert</td>
<td>Wednesday, Sept. 21 - Grade 2</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Sept. 27 - Grades K&amp;1</td>
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**Bullpup Briefs**

**Enrichment Program Offers Longer Sessions**

Registration is now open for the fall session of the PTA Enrichment Program, which for the first time will schedule classes to meet during every week of the school year from Sept. 26 to June 16.

Catalogs were sent home Wednesday and may be downloaded from www.tmlink.org/enrichment, which is also the starting point for the preferred registration method (online). The catalog also offers a paper form.

**Deadline is Sunday, Sept. 18,** with most classes beginning Sept. 26-30. Students eligible for free lunch are invited to register for a class at just 10% of the normal fee.

**Oct. 8 Workshop on ‘Puzzle of the Gifted Family’**

An 8-hour workshop on Oct. 8 will teach parents how to use tools developed by the international nonprofit SENG (“Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted”). Specific tools to be covered in “Putting Together the Puzzle of the Gifted Family” include: 1) measuring certain gifted traits in family members, 2) examining how different patterns can cause ongoing conflicts and misunderstandings, and 3) identifying some strategies to help address those challenges. Participants will gain methods to help their family be more cohesive and harmonious. The presenters are Anne van Roden and Gloria Sandford, licensed mental health professionals who work with gifted families in the Seattle area.


**Be in the Family Directory!**

Have you provided contact info for the Family Directory? You can do it online by starting at http://tmlink.org/dir/ or use the paper form. (No need to do both!) The email address you provide ensures you’ll be on classroom and PTA e-lists. A free copy of the Directory will be sent home with every student next month.